



Student Life

In addition to academics and extracurricular activities, nothing is more important in a student's life than friends and social networking. Students enrolled in the MERIT program are still a part of the social fabric of the school they attend, following the same schedule alongside other MERIT and non-MERIT students, and eating lunch in our award-winning cafeterias, playing alongside their friends on sports teams, or enjoying down time between classes.

Dynamic. Competitive. Successful.



Thomas County SCHOOL SYSTEM

Extracurricular Activities

Thomas County Schools have an exceptional tradition of excellence in many areas beyond academics and realize how important it is to shape young adults into leaders with drive and determination. Many colleges and universities look for these qualities when making admission decisions. Opportunities abound for every student to find an activity to be a part of outside of the classroom, whether it is a club, athletics, band, academic competition, or volunteer work.



Transportation

Once enrolled in Thomas County Schools, students have access to one of the safest and most secure modes of transportation available. Numerous routes make buses accessible to all students so they arrive at school on time, warm, and dry, no matter the weather. After the school day, the students are returned safely home.



*Maximizing
Education to
Realize
Intellectual
Transformation*

The Thomas County School System's MERIT program provides academically gifted students in grades 5—12 with the resources to compete at a state and national level in preparation for post-secondary opportunities in a rigorous and challenging learning atmosphere.

Dr. James T. Rehberg

Director, Honors, Gifted, and Accelerated Instruction

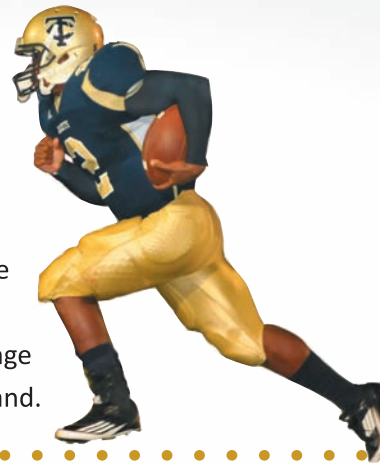
<http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us/>





MERIT

The MERIT program of study is designed for middle and high school students who desire a challenging academic environment to prepare for competitive admission and scholarship opportunities at the post-secondary level. The MERIT program stresses academic excellence coupled with competition, athletics, fine arts, and community service. MERIT students move seamlessly around the campus to create a unified atmosphere among all students. MERIT scholars continue to enjoy time with their friends and participate in a full range of athletics, clubs, and fine arts including marching, symphonic, concert, and jazz band.



Dual Enrollment



After AP courses or in tandem with them, students may decide to pursue an Associates Degree by enrolling in a post-secondary institute while earning high school credit. Partnerships with Southwest Georgia Technical College, Thomas University, Bainbridge College and others offer many opportunities for advanced learning.



MERIT program students have the opportunity to enroll in Advanced Placement classes. AP classes are college-

level courses and exams where students can earn college credit and advanced placement, stand out in the admission process, and learn from skilled, dedicated, and inspiring teachers who put their heart in their work. Thomas County Schools offers fourteen AP classes including Art History, Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, Environmental Science, Music Theory, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, Studio Art, US History, and World History.



Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement students explore their interests and discover new passions. In AP classes, they encounter fascinating topics and ideas that may become the foundation of their future college major or career. Students scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on their AP Exams may receive credit at their chosen college or university upon admission. By entering college with AP credits, students have the time to move into upper level courses, pursue a double-major or study abroad, all while saving money and building confidence for college coursework.



Clubs and Competitions

Students can further distinguish themselves by participating in any number of the clubs and competitions offered. Club and class officer positions in student government and competitions from Academic Bowl to Youth Assembly give academic students a chance to shine while representing the Thomas County Central Yellow Jackets.

MERIT students interested in medicine, business, education, agriculture, or engineering will find



many classes available introducing them to the underlying concepts of their chosen field. Students enrolled in the MERIT program also have the opportunity to earn an academic letterman jacket by meeting three of six criteria set forth in the program application. These include exemplary performance on standardized tests or academic competitions. Fully enrolled

students will also participate in special field trips throughout the year. Many of our programs boast state-of-the-art equipment and facilities so students can make an immediate contribution to the workforce or continue their studies after graduation.



Visit us on the web or download an application at <http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us/>